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## Defence news

### Indian Defence Updates

**LCA Tejas Mark 1A Procurement:** The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the procurement of 97 indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a cost of ₹62,000 crore. This order is in addition to the 83 jets previously ordered, bringing the total number of LCA Mark 1A aircraft to 180. The jets will be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and are intended to replace the IAF's aging MiG-21 fleet, which is being phased out.

**DRDO's Guided Pinaka:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has stated that the Guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket system can be repurposed to target and destroy warships. Originally a long-range artillery rocket, its enhanced accuracy with a range of 75–90 km makes it a cost-effective anti-ship warfare option for coastal defense.

**Army Modernization:** The Indian Army is undergoing a comprehensive transformation to prepare for "next-gen warfare." This includes the formation of new units like the Bhairav Battalions, which are special forces units for rapid strikes and cross-border raids, and the conversion of brigades into Rudra Brigades, which are all-arms formations integrating infantry, artillery, and armored units. The Army is also procuring new missile systems and integrating drones into infantry battalions.

### International Defence Updates

**U.S. and Ukraine:** U.S. President Donald Trump has ruled out putting American ground troops in

Ukraine but has stated that the U.S. might provide air support as part of a deal to end the war. This comes as Russia launched its biggest air assault in over a month on Ukraine.

**Hamas-Israel Ceasefire:** Israel is reviewing a ceasefire proposal from Hamas, mediated by Egypt and Qatar. The proposal includes a 60-day truce and the release of a number of Israeli hostages.

**China-India Relations:** China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent visit to India has resulted in both nations agreeing to a series of measures to improve relations, including reopening border trade and resuming direct flights. While not a direct defense matter, this diplomatic thaw has significant implications for border security and military posture.

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- c) Sukhoi Su-30MKI  
d) Jaguar

**Answer:** a) MiG-21

The document mentions that the new jets "are intended to replace the IAF's aging MiG-21 fleet, which is being phased out."

**3. What is the new cost-effective anti-ship warfare option mentioned in the text?**

- a) LCA Tejas Mark 1A  
b) Bhairav Battalions  
c) Guided Pinaka  
d) Rudra Brigades

**Answer:** c) Guided Pinaka

The text specifies that the "Guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket system can be repurposed to target and destroy warships," making it a "cost-effective anti-ship warfare option."

**4. The Indian Army's new "Rudra Brigades" are described as what type of formations?**

- a) Units for rapid strikes and cross-border raids  
b) All-arms formations integrating infantry, artillery, and armored units  
c) New missile systems for air defense  
d) Units primarily focused on coastal defense

**Answer:** b) All-arms formations integrating infantry, artillery, and armored units

The text defines Rudra Brigades as "all-arms formations integrating infantry, artillery, and armored units into a single operational structure."

**5. Which country's foreign minister visited India, leading to measures to improve diplomatic relations?**

- a) Russia  
b) China  
c) Ukraine  
d) Israel

## MCQS

**1. What is the total number of LCA Tejas Mark 1A aircraft that the Indian Air Force (IAF) will have after the latest procurement of 97 jets?**

- a) 97  
b) 83  
c) 180  
d) 62,000

**Answer:** c) 180

The text states that the new order for 97 jets is "in addition to the 83 jets previously ordered, bringing the total number of LCA Mark 1A aircraft to 180."

**2. Which indigenous aircraft fleet will the LCA Tejas Mark 1A jets replace?**

- a) MiG-21  
b) Mirage 2000







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**Answer: b) China**

The text notes that "China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent visit to India has resulted in both nations agreeing to a series of measures to improve relations."

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